

Special Thanks to

Lydia Hailu
Valerie Kiszka
Lori Lynn Taniguchi

and our generous sponsors:

Stanford Arts Institute
Vice Provost for Graduate Education
Stanford Department of Classics



About SCIT

Stanford Classics in Theater strives to promote understanding of and engagement with classical theater through original research, rehearsal, and production. We hope to bring together students from various academic backgrounds and interests, primarily among the graduate students of the Department of Classics, but also including undergraduates, faculty and others from the broader Stanford community. Visit scit.stanford.edu for more info.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN PIECES:

A COMEDY (IN FRAGMENTS)



MAY 14 & 15
8PM

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN PIECES: A COMEDY (IN FRAGMENTS)

CAST

The Banqueters

Donald Trump	David Pickel (Director)
Paul Ryan	Bobby Pragada (Director)
George W Bush	Brandon Bark (Director)

The Wine Flask

Crazy	Ted Kelting (Director)
Koch Brothers	Peter Shi
Marco Rubio	Noah Arthurs
G.O.P.	Jackie Arthur-Montagne
Sarah Palin	Becca Sansom
Rando Friend	Hannah LeBlanc
Bristol Palin	Alyson Melzer

The Demes

John McCain	Stephen Sansom (Director)
Arnold Schwarzenegger	Scott Weiss
Dwight Eisenhower	Alyson Melzer
Richard Nixon	Brandon Bark
Ronald Reagan	Peter Shi
Abraham Lincoln	Grant Parker
Rand Paul	Scott Arcenas
Ted Cruz	Matthieu Abgrall
Donald Trump	Noah Arthurs

Featuring

Dick Cheney | Carolyn Manion

Chorus

Stephen Sansom
Ted Kelting
Hannah LeBlanc
Allison Fink

CREW

Producer	Alyson Melzer
Costumes	Brittney Szempruch
Choreography	Kate Kreindler
Videography	Martin Valdez-Vivas
Visuals (<i>Wine Flask</i>)	Rebecca Sansom
Audio Engineering	Stephen Sansom
Lights and Sound	Mark Pyzyk

President	Ted Kelting
Treasurer	Scott Weiss
Secretary	Lizzy Ten-Hove

Translation Team

Matthieu Abgrall, Brandon Bark, David Pickel, Ted Kelting, Kilian Mallon, Alyson Melzer, Mark Pyzyk, Stephen Sansom, Peter Shi, Brittney Szempruch, Lizzy Ten-Hove, and Scott Weiss.

Lyrics By

Jackie Arthur-Montagne, Dillon Gisch, and Lizzy Ten-Hove

Directors' Notes

This year SCIT has ventured into uncharted waters! Rather than adapt a complete, extant play, we have decided to stage three fragmentary plays by the three most famous Greek comedians: Aristophanes, Cratinus, and Eupolis. The challenge of adapting plays that survive only in a set of often random and woefully incomplete quotations is obvious, but the rewards of staging these amazing and completely underread (and, to our knowledge, never performed) plays made the challenge completely worthwhile. Not only do the plots of these three plays adapt incredibly well to our current political climate, but the task of integrating the preserved fragments (sometimes seamlessly, often very seam-fully) and recreating the competitiveness of ancient comedy has allowed SCIT to present aspects of ancient comedy that are completely underrepresented in modern performance of ancient comedy.

The Banqueters, David Pickel

The Banqueters was Aristophanes' first play (429 BCE). Here the comic playwright pits two brothers - the Virtuous Boy and the Bugged Boy - against one another. Debating in front of their father and others at a banquet, each brother details the merits of his own particular education. The Virtuous Boy clings to a more traditional education, while the Bugged Boy embraces the radical teachings of the sophists. Our adaptation, set in one of Cleveland's friendly neighborhood Applebee's (Oh, what a microcosm of America!), replaces the two brothers with Paul Ryan and Donald Trump, who unwittingly find themselves competing for George W. Bush's support for the nomination. To Bush, the merits of their individual political philosophies matter less than the opinion of the chorus of banqueters—or, in our case, Applebee's customers.

The Wine Flask, Ted Kelting

Our second vignette adapts what was the most famous play of the best Athenian comedian you've never heard of, Cratinus. In his *Wine Flask*, he responds to Aristophanes' mockery of his fading stardom by completely embracing the old, drunken version of himself depicted in Aristophanes' *Knights*. In the *Wine Flask*, Cratinus makes himself the protagonist of his own play, where he cheats on his wife, Comedy personified, with Drunkenness personified. We've tried to reproduce this brilliantly self-aware and strikingly abstract play with the most fantastically irrelevant star of screen and (political) stage, Sarah Palin! Check back in with the star of yesteryear, who is now facing a similar love triangle. She's moved on from her former husband G.O.P—a personification of mainstream, Romney-esque Republicanism—to her new fling, Crazy.

As much as possible, we have directly quoted both from the Greek original and from famous Republicans. Trump, Palin, Cruz, and others may have said it, but in the end it's all Crazy!

The Demes, Stephen Sansom

In a time when deceased musicians regularly take the stage through the miracle of holography, the ancient world once again

shows its prescience for predicting the future. Though it did not originally involve holograms, Eupolis' *Demes* (first produced circa 412 BC) anticipated this recent technological trend. Not unlike the Republican Party of today, in the late 5th century BC, Athens was in crisis. Decades of war with Sparta and her allies had depleted the emotional, physical and political stamina of the city. Most of all, the citizenry was desperate for the strong political leadership of days past. The solution proposed in the *Demes* is at once traditional and desperate: bring back dead politicians from Hades to restore order and displace the inept leaders of the day.

Though he didn't know it at the time, Eupolis staged what every modern day Republican has wanted since '89. This year, SCIT gets to bring back the Gipper, Ike, and Lincoln—we've also thrown in Nixon for good measure. It's the perfect solution to the perfect storm that is Donald Trump, and we hope the GOP takes notice. And despite the fact that our budget can't afford 3D projection, we think 2pac would be impressed as well.

Bios

Allison Fink: local talent, Stanford alumna (Chorus)
She doesn't even go here. She just has a lot of feelings.

Alyson Melzer: 2nd year PhD, Classics (Bristol, Eisenhower, Producer)
Alyson has been having stress dreams about a pregnant Dwight Eisenhower muttering something about owls backwards in a big red room. Probably nothing to worry about.

Bobby Pragada Freshman (Paul Ryan, Director)
Bobby is an undergrad who took a Latin class one time, and is constantly afraid of the tyrannical grad students who run the Classics department with an iron fist. In fact, he only auditioned for SCIT because his teaching fellow bullied him into doing it.

Brandon Bark: 1st year PhD, Classics (Nixon, Bush, Director)
Brandon was asked to write a short biography for this program. Only hippies and subversives write bios. He would also like you to know that this performance is being recorded. But keep your dirty paws off those damn tapes!

Brittney Szempruch: 4th year PhD, Classics (costumes)
She's said it before, and will say it again: the autumn-themed loaf pan is inarguably the best piece of equipment in her kitchen. Sometimes she helps with costumes too.

Carolyn Manion: Freshman (Dick Cheney)

Carolyn, a plebeian freshman Classics Major, doesn't quite know how she found herself in SCIT, but it may be the result of reciting Cicero's 1st Catilinarian Oration 3 times at midnight in front of Building 110.

David Pickel: 1st year PhD, Classics (Trump, Director)

David plays Donald Trump. In order to give you, our most deserving audience, the best performance possible, David studied the man incessantly: his "speeches;" his "debates;" his business "successes;" his "hair." As a result, he now reads at a fourth-grade level.

Grant Parker: Associate Professor of Classics (Lincoln)

As a SCIT debutante, Grant can proudly say that he has found a thespian home: he pledge before you, the person next to you, and the Olympians, with all the legally binding power that entails, that he will act in every SCIT play, now and forever in perpetuity.

Hannah LeBlanc: 3rd year PhD, History (Rando Friend, Chorus)

Hannah, also known by her stage name Finn, would like the audience to know that she performs tonight under protest. She and one of the directors (who is Crazy) have creative differences over her wig. She performs for the sake of Bristol, the Classics Department, and America.

Jackie Arthur-Montagne: Stanford alumna, Lecturer, Classics (GOP)

As a soon to be alumna of Stanford Classics, Jackie is delighted that her final year has been spent in the role of GOP personified. She is most grateful for six years of SCIT productions, dirty Greek jokes, and pseudo-philological fun with her fellow classicists."

Kate Kreindler: Stanford alumna (Choreography)

Your friends don't dance and if they don't dance then they're no friends of mine.

Mark Pyzyk: Stanford alum, Lecturer, Classics (Lights, Sound)

Having served faithfully (in a non-acting capacity) in every SCIT performance dating back to the *Clouds*, Mark vowed that the game was behind him. But just when he thought he was out, they pulled him back in. SCIT directors found him in a modest home in Boca Raton, FL. "One last score", they said. "Easy money", they said. Mark looks forward to returning to civilian life and working on his golf swing.

Matthieu Abgrall: 3rd year PhD, Classics (Ted Cruz)

Although Matthieu hails from France, he has always held a secret devotion for the fiscal and social policies of the GOP. Less Government! Tax Breaks for the Rich! More Social Legislation! Matthieu loves all these

things, and to consecrate this love, he is officially changing his name to its true American spelling: Matthew.

Noah Arthurs: Sophomore, Classics/ CS (Marco Rubio, Trump)

Noah once ate a hamburger in two bites.

Peter Shi: 1st year PhD, Classics (Koch Brothers, Reagan)

Did you see that hot Applebee's girl?

Rebecca Sansom: 4th year SCIT veteran (Sarah Palin)

When Rebecca is not imitating Sarah Palin or reliving SCIT performances of yesteryear, she manages future iconic popstars. Thus, she now donates the remainder of her bio to M the Myth (mthemyth.com) and Celeste (fromceleste.com). Listen on Spotify! Follow on Twitter! #weallgetpaidfromspotifyplays!

Scott Arcenas: 5th year PhD, Classics (Rand Paul)

After years of devotion to the Republican cause, enough is enough! What would YOU do if your beloved political party, the object of your stalwart support and respect, the cause of so much ridicule among your liberal hipster peers, nominated a steaming pile of blonde quaffed crazy like Trump? It is thus with much remorse and self-contempt that he forever renounces the Elephantine party and forever pledge his allegiance to...well...the Greens, I guess? JILL STEIN 2016!

Scott Weiss: 3rd year PhD, Classics (Schwarzenegger)

Scott is a real gym rat who loves to pump iron. When SCIT asked him to be Arnold Schwarzenegger, he said, "I welcome and seek your ideas, but do not bring me small ideas; bring me big ideas to match our future.

Stephen Sansom: 4th year PhD, Classics (McCain, Chorus, Director)

After years of political indifference, Stephen has finally found the party that is closest to his gut. It wasn't the politics that swayed him, nor the principles. Rather, it was this rousing election day chant from the 1840s that has forever won his vote (and coincidentally provided the title for his forthcoming monograph on Alabama White Sauce BBQ): "Democrats— / They eat rats! / But Whigs / Eat pigs!" WHIG PARTY 2016!

Ted Kelting: 3rd year PhD, Classics (Crazy, Chorus, Director)

SCIT president extraordinaire and 3rd year PhD in Classics, is starting to worry about the ease with which he transforms into variations on the Crazy theme. That said, there's nothing crazy about the way he used SCIT funds to buy apocalypse shelter supplies. That'll pay serious dividends. Irradiated Bison jerky is the worst kind of Bison jerky.